

*Book Reviews*

lives for themselves and their children, place high value on education. Children of immigrants tend to pursue professional, technical, and business degrees, which allows them to pursue careers that are linked to high incomes and which increase their chances for better life styles.

In chapter seven, Lundberg and Rose examine the impact of gender on raising children. Fathers, for example, tend to be more involved with their sons, and research indicates that households with sons spend more money on family expenditures than households with daughters.

Each chapter in *Family Investments in Children's Potential* introduces important issues that require further investigation, issues such as the influence of gender, disability status, and public policy pertaining to families on the outcomes of children.

## I Wanna Be Sedated

Faith Conlone and Gail Hudson, eds.  
Emeryville, CA: Seal Press, 2005.

### Reviewed by Ruth Nemzoff

*I Wanna be Sedated* is an uneven collection of tales about parenting emerging adults—i.e., teenagers. The pieces vary from the trivial to the poignant. On the one hand, Jeff Wallace reveals his horror at having to deal with his daughter's first period. This reader felt like telling Wallace to "Grow up Dad!" On the other hand, Barbara Kingsolver is especially apt in her musings on the roots of parents' worry as they help their children apply to college: "will we ever find a place that will hold her and love her as well as I do?" (151).

If one ignores its stereotypic notion of the teenage years as an abhorrent time when parents are totally confused, this book offers some insights. Joyce Maynard confronts us with societal and personal ambivalence about sex; Gail Hudson explores the complexity of the college application process; Peter Applebome forces liberals to reconsider the worth of the boy scouts; and Debra Gwartney writes with passion and detail about a truly difficult situation. The collection even includes an article by Flor Fernandez Barrios about "other mothering." And, as always, Anna Quindlen writes about mothering with humour and penetrating honesty.

However, nowhere does this collection confront the myth that teenagers must be difficult. Nor does it ask why parents would want to be sedated during adolescence, a time that is endlessly fascinating as both children and parents grow and change. Nonetheless, *I Wanna Be Sedated* is worth reading—if one reads selectively and applies critical thinking.